THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The number of workers in the unorganized sector being huge and widely dispersed, the extension of a comprehensive social security cover to such workers is a gigantic task and would be a time consuming effort requiring massive resources. Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to identifiable groups who are presently not covered under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.

(c) and (d) The establishments notified under Schedule I of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and those having 20 or more workers come under the purview of the Act. The proposal to amend the EPF & MP Act, 1952 to reduce the threshold for coverage under the PF has been discussed by the Central Board of Trustees (EPF). No time frame for carrying out the amendments can be given at this stage.

Violation of trade union rights

1720. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "trade union rights violated in India" which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated the 20th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has condemned violation of workers trade union rights in India;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps to ensure the rights of trade unions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Cases of violation of trade union rights, if reported, are taken up with the Central and State Enforcement Machinery for investigation and redressal.